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DANTE AND GUINIZELLI IN CHAUCER'S *Troilus*

And Troilus shal dwellen forth in pine,
 Til Lachesis his thred no lenger twine.
 (T. C., v, 6, 7.)

may be a reminiscence of

E quando Lachesis non ha più lino,
 Solvesi dalla carne.
 (Purg., xxv, 79; cf. also xxi, 25-7.)

Probable echoes of the *Purgatorio* have often been pointed out in *Troilus*.¹

At the beginning of Book III of the *Troilus* Venus is invoked (verse 5),

In gentil hertes ay redy to repaire.

This is almost word for word the opening line in the most celebrated poem by Dante's predecessor Guido Guinizelli, the fifth canzone, on the nature of love (*Scelta di Curiosità*, vol. 185),

Al cor gentil ripara sempre amore.

Chaucer may have been attracted to Guinizelli by the glorifying of him as Dante's "padre mio" in the *Purgatorio* (xxvi, 92, 97 ff.; xi, 97). The reminiscence is not certain. The idea and context are near those of Boccaccio in the *Filostrato* (iii, 74),

figliuola di Giove,
 Benigna donna d'ogni gentil core.

"Gentil herte," "cuer gentil," "gentil core" are a part of the regular fashionable vocabulary of love from the thirteenth century on.

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BRIEF MENTION

An Anglo-Saxon Reader, edited with notes and glossary. By Alfred J. Wyatt (Cambridge, University Press, 1919). An editor of a new Anglo-Saxon Reader is primarily concerned with the selection of his texts. Professor Wyatt reports serious effort in this matter, namely, "a review of the whole corpus of Anglo-Saxon literature with very distinct aims: to ascertain whether there was any suitable material that had not been drawn upon in earlier works of the same character; to attain to a greater variety of contents than was to be found in some of the books then [when

¹ Skeat, ii, 468; *Anglia*, xiii, 184; *Mod. Philol.*, iii, 367; xiv, 135-7; Miss Hammond, *Bibl. Manual*, 82-3; Toynbee, *Dante in English Literature*, i, 2, 3. Boccaccio's *Teseide* (x, 32) shows the frequent confusion of Lachesis with Atropos:

Tolgan gl'Iddii, Arcita, amico caro,
 Che Lachesis il fil poco tirato
 Ancora tronchi.